



# Safety Alert



## INCIDENT TITLE:

Winter Driving Conditions

## TIME AND DATE OF INCIDENT:

Every year, as soon as Winter catches us off-guard

## INCIDENT DETAIL :

Every year Winter driving conditions claim lives on NZ roads. Here is a reminder of how to plan in these conditions.

- Be prepared for safe winter driving by planning your journey.
- Check traffic and travel updates on **NZTA** website before you leave.
- Think about where you're going and what route you should take – **choose safety over convenience.**
- Consider if you really need to travel, especially if the weather is poor. Meetings via Teams are common practice these days.
- Always check the weather forecast. Metservice has a really good website
- Ensure the vehicle you take is the best for the conditions, you have all your emergency gear and snow chains if you are going over a mountain pass.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

What should I do on the road?

- Drive slower than you normally would- it only takes a split second to lose control in wet or icy conditions.
- Avoid sudden braking or turning movements that could cause you to skid.
- Accelerate smoothly and brake gently.
- Use your highest gear when travelling uphill and your lowest downhill.
- For vehicles without anti-skid braking systems, to avoid skidding or sliding, pump the brake pedal in short rapid bursts rather than pressing long and hard.
- Drive at a safe travelling distance because it takes longer to stop on slippery roads. In winter, especially in poor weather, double the 2 second rule and leave a safe distance between you and the car in front.
- When travelling in fog, rain or snow, drive with your lights dipped for increased safety.

## BEST PRACTICE:

Am I safer in a 4WD?

While 4WDs do have better forward traction and provide good grip, your ability to drive in adverse weather, drive to the conditions, and follow the winter driving tips above still apply to all vehicles.

## IMMEDIATE INTERIM ACTIONS:

What about Electric Vehicles?

EVs typically have front-wheel drive, which can provide better traction in snowy conditions than rear-wheel drive cars. This is because the weight of the battery is located low in the car, which helps to keep the centre of gravity low and improve stability. While traditional cars may have the advantage of four-wheel drive, many EV manufacturers have also developed all-wheel drive systems that provide the same level of traction and stability.

Take care out there!

## PHOTO



**THIS SAFETY ALERT HAS BEEN ISSUED BY THE HEALTH & SAFETY TEAM. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

Steve Herbst or the Safety and Wellbeing Team